

Seed Grant Proposal Questions

Do you know who will be evaluating the proposals?

The Chair of the Partnership Board, Deputy Chairs, and eight additional members has been established to review and evaluate the proposals and present recommendations to the Partnership Board.

Can you tell us which members of the Partnership will be evaluating the proposals?

The identities of the Partnership Board who will be evaluating the seed grant proposals are not known at this time.

When will the funds be available?

The funds will be available as soon as the grant contracts are signed. They must be encumbered (contracts signed by the participant and the Business, Transportation and Housing Agency) no later than June 30, 2007.

Are the funds available on a reimbursable basis?

Yes.

How do you encumber the funds?

Once the seed grant recipients have been identified, grant contracts will be prepared and signed by the recipient and the Business, Transportation and Housing Agency. Once the contracts have been signed by the necessary parties, the funds will be encumbered (or set aside for the recipients grant).

Is there no evaluation criteria established for the proposals?

The evaluation criteria that the Partnership will be using are on page 6 of the Solicitation for Concept Proposals for Partnership Seed Grants.

Are the proposal forms fillable?

Initially, there was a problem with the form. That problem has been worked out and is now fillable. Unfortunately, it cannot be saved so when work is completed on the form, you must print it out so that the work is saved. It is recommended that work be completed on the summary using a separate word document and then it be cut and paste it into the form once it's been completed. I have been able to save a copy of the solicitation to Word if you can not access the forms via our website. Please e-mail me at jdias@bth.ca.gov or call me at 916-324-7514 for a copy.

Do we know how long short means?

The Project Summary is limited to 5 pages or less. The rest of the document shouldn't take up much more space that has been created.

If we are planning to cover more than one area, do we submit more than one proposal or can we combine components on one proposal?

Proposers may do both. Proposals may be submitted covering more than one component of the Strategic Action Proposal and/or multiple proposals may be submitted.

Can we work with other competitors?

Yes. In fact, proposers are encouraged to be innovative both in their approaches and in their arrangements among and between participants included in the proposals.

If we are already working on a project in an area identified in the Strategic Action Proposal, can we apply for this seed grant to further that project?

Yes.

Do you think it would be better to work with others than to submit a proposal as an individual?

That is a decision of the proposer.

Do we have to address more than one component of the Strategic Action Proposal?

No, you don't have to address more than one component of the Strategic Action Proposal. The purpose of the Seed Grants is to jump start the initiatives identified in the Strategic Action Plan. Take, for instance, "Develop model roadside rest areas using the GreenStop prototype," a rest area is one component outlined under the broader topic "Build a 21st Century Transportation Mobility System." You may have the expertise to develop an outstanding roadside rest area without the expertise to incorporate the other components of "Build a 21st Century Transportation Mobility System." Please understand that this is only an example to show how one initiative chosen from the Strategic Action Plan could be used and not in any way meant to say that this is the direction you should chose, unless of course, this is the choice you would have made on your own.

Does the proposal have to address the entire San Joaquin Valley or can it address one county or a town?

No, the proposals do not have to address the entire San Joaquin Valley. Winning proposals will be selected for their potential help jump start major initiatives that

have been identified in the Strategic Action Proposal that will have a significant immediate impact or will lay a solid foundation for long-term priority strategies and investments. One of the initiatives identified in the Strategic Action Proposal is to develop a program to ensure all the children in your school district can read at or above grade level. The program developed would, in all likelihood, also help children in school districts throughout the entire San Joaquin Valley. Again, this is only an example and should be taken to mean you should work on a project to help children read at or above grade level in order to receive a seed grant.

If we don't get a seed grant from this \$2.5 million, does it preclude us from obtaining a grant from the balance of the \$5 million funding?

Yes. The remaining \$2.5 million has been allocated to the Secretariat and work group staffing effort.

How does it look for next year? Is the Governor going to give us another \$5 million?

This \$5 million was one time funding. There is no promise for Seed Grant funding in the next fiscal year.

Do we have to have matching funds?

A total of 10 points are being awarded to competitors who receive matching or in kind resources for their proposal. Proposals will not be disqualified for not having matching funds.

Do we have to attend a workshop to be eligible for a seed grant?

No one has to attend these workshops to apply for a grant. The workshops were offered as a means to make sure competitors understand the solicitation for concept proposals and to answer questions anyone might have.

Can you give us an ideal scenario of a proposal to submit?

No.

Can we submit more than one proposal?

Yes, you can submit more than one concept proposal.

How would one identify the "stakeholders" in Kern County?

The most efficient way to identify "stakeholders" will be left up to the proposer. A review the information on Partnership meetings posted on the www.bth.ca.gov website might be helpful.

Why is it that the eight county boundaries omit the lands behind the three northern most counties east toward the Sierra Summit?

Errors made during the printing process. The printer made new map inserts. If you would like a revised map, please contact me.

Do you know whether the awards will be in the form of a grant, where the dollars are disbursed up front for a specific purpose, and grantees will be required to submit interim or final reports; or, will they be structured as contracts, where dollars are disbursed on a cost-reimbursable basis, or as compensation for services performed?

The awards will be structured as contracts, where dollars are disbursed on a cost-reimbursement basis, or as compensation for services performed.

In the Partnership solicitation, no mention is given as to allowable font size, or whether one can use additional pages, if needed.

Twelve point font size is recommended. Participants can use up to 5 pages for their summary.

What is the definition of a partnership?

A partnership is a cooperative relationship between people or groups who agree to share responsibility for achieving some specific goal.

Do all partners need to contribute match?

It is not required to have matching contributions; however, points are being added for matching funds.

Is indirect allowed for the host organization?

Yes, however, proposals are going to be scored on cost-effectiveness.